

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Explosion in the Legnowo Ammunition Factory near Bydgoszcz	DATE DISTR.	9 March 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. Between 10 and 16 November 1952, there was an explosion in the ammunition factory at Legnowo, near Bydgoszcz. The explosion occurred in the building where gun powder is produced. The shock caused a detonation in the T.N.T. stores.
2. One thousand eight hundred persons lost their lives. This high death-toll is explained by the fact that at the moment of the explosion there was a change of the shift in the factory and two shifts of workers were present simultaneously in the factory grounds.
3. Immediately after the explosion the area of Legnowo was surrounded by military units. Roads leading to Bydgoszcz were closed by military sentries, who checked the documents of persons leaving the town. Similar controls were carried out at the Bydgoszcz railroad station and at other railroad stations in the neighborhood.
4. Many suspects were arrested in Bydgoszcz itself. According to rumors circulating in the town, the explosion was caused by sabotage of American agents. The state of emergency in Bydgoszcz lasted for about 10 days, after which everything returned to normal.
5. As a result of the explosion at least half the window panes in Bydgoszcz were blown out and cracks appeared in many houses.¹

1. Comment: Another report stated that the explosion occurred about 25X1 20 November, and as far as was known, it was accidental and not sabotage.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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